

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller,
2 the fibre channel controller being associated with a port of a network device, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 facilitating utilization of current address settings of a fibre channel controller for
5 the network device;
6 receiving information corresponding to desired address settings of the network
7 device;
8 storing information corresponding to the desired address settings of the network
9 device; and
10 replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings of
11 the network device.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings
2 comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,
4 desired address settings upon reinitialization of the fibre channel controller.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings
2 comprises the step of:
3 replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings
4 while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the current address settings
2 comprises the step of:
3 replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings
4 while the fibre channel controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining whether to replace the
2 current address settings comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,
4 desired address settings upon an operator initiated reset of the fibre channel controller.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining whether to replace the
2 current address settings comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address settings with the stored,
4 desired address settings upon a next power cycle of the fibre channel controller.

1 7. A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller,
2 the method comprising the steps of:
3 enabling current address information corresponding to an address of the fibre
4 channel controller to be provided to an operator;
5 enabling address setting information corresponding to address settings of the fibre
6 channel controller to be provided to the operator;
7 enabling the operator to change the address settings of the fibre channel
8 controller; and
9 enabling the operator to change the current address of the fibre channel controller
10 in response to the change of the address settings.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon
4 reinitialization of the fibre channel controller.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:
3 replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel
4 controller is connected to a fabric topology.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:
3 replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel
4 controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon
4 an operator initiated reset of the fibre channel controller.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of enabling the operator to change the
2 current address of the fibre channel controller comprises the step of:
3 determining whether to replace the current address with the address settings upon
4 a next power cycle of the fibre channel controller.

1 13. A system for changing address information utilized by a network device, said
2 system comprising:
3 a control system configured to receive information corresponding to desired
4 address settings of the network device, store information corresponding to the desired
5 address settings of the network device, and replace the current address settings with the
6 desired address settings of the network device such that a communications port associated
7 with the network device may be recognized by the network as being associated with the
8 current address.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a communications port configured to enable communication of the network device
3 with other devices of a network, said communications port being associated with the
4 current address of the network device.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system comprises:
2 means for receiving information corresponding to desired address settings of the
3 network device;
4 means for storing information corresponding to the desired address settings of the
5 network device; and
6 means for replacing the current address settings with the desired address settings
7 of the network device.

1 16. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system is implemented via a fibre
2 channel controller, said fibre channel controller communicating with said
3 communications port.

1 17. The system of claim 13, wherein said control system is configured to provide a
2 graphical user interface suitable for display to an operator, said graphical user interface
3 being configured to enable receipt of information corresponding to the desired address
4 settings of the network device.

1 18. The system of claim 13, wherein said fibre channel controller is configured to
2 provide an operator with an indication that the current address settings are to be replaced
3 with the address settings even though the fibre channel controller is not presently
4 connected to a fibre channel topology.

1 19. The system of claim 13, wherein said fibre channel controller comprises:
 2 a computer readable medium having a computer program for changing address
 3 information of the network device, said computer readable medium including logic
 4 configured to enable current address information corresponding to an address of the fibre
 5 channel controller to be provided to an operator, logic configured to enable address
 6 setting information corresponding to address settings of the fibre channel controller to be
 7 provided to the operator, logic configured to enable the operator to change the address
 8 settings of the fibre channel controller, and logic configured to enable the operator to
 9 change the current address of the fibre channel controller in response to the change of the
 10 address settings.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein said fibre channel controller is configured to
 2 provide a graphical user interface suitable for display to an operator, said graphical user
 3 interface being configured to provide the operator with said indication that the current
 4 address settings are to be replaced with the address settings even though the fibre channel
 5 controller is not presently connected to a fibre channel topology.